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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Henry Holley, Billy Graham Evangelical Association of Marietta, GA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

"Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord."

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who made and sustained us as a Nation, we bow before Thee at this hour. Thou art our refuge and strength and a very present help in time of trouble.

Today, I pray for all those in authority and especially for the Senators of this great institution. I ask that You give them wisdom and blessing this day, to make decisions that would strengthen and prosper our Nation.

Thank You for Your grace and protection over our beloved United States of America. Cause us to know that righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. May we be renewed in mind and spirit so we can be a channel of Thy love to others. Thank You for the promise that someday every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that You are Lord, to the glory of God.

With respect for persons of other faiths, I humbly make my prayer in the Name of my Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD.)

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today following whatever time the leaders might utilize, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, the first 30 minutes will be for the majority, the second 30 minutes will be for the Republicans. Once morning business closes, under a previous order, the Senate will return to executive session and conclude the debate on the Casey nomination. Up to 30 minutes of debate is in order, and that time will be equally divided and controlled between Senators LEVIN and MCCAIN. At the end of that time, the Senate will conduct a

rollcall vote on confirming the nomination.

Through the Chair, I direct a question to my distinguished counterpart, the Senator from Kentucky. I would like to take about 10 minutes prior to the vote on Casey. We can put that in the order now, if you would like to also do that, and reserve that time, at least, whether you decide to do that or not. Shall we reserve the time?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I say to my friend, the majority leader, that will be fine. I may or may not use that time.

Mr. REID. I ask the request be amended to allow the last 20 minutes of the debate be equally divided between the Republican leader and me, and I will take the final 10 minutes prior to the vote.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. After the confirmation vote, the Senate will proceed to the continuing funding resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I pause for a moment to pay tribute and welcome Rev. Henry Holley, our Chaplain of the day. It is a special occasion for me because this is personal. I have known Henry Holley for 30 years, his beautiful wife Betty and his daughter Debbie, who are with us today. I have known him in many ways. I would like the Senate to know, first of all, that this is a U.S. marine. For 22 years, he served the United States of America in the Marine Corps and retired in 1966, upon which time he joined the Billy Graham organization and for the last 40 years has traveled 12 million miles to countries around the world. He leads now the Graham evangelical organization throughout the Pacific rim. His reach is so important that it is countless millions of people. One evening in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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1990, in Hong Kong, Dr. Henry Holley and Dr. Graham preached the Gospel to more than 100,000 people in Asia.

But he has a special reach. He has a reach around the corner and around the world. Just about any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in Marietta, GA, at the Caribou Coffeehouse, which has been renamed the Caribou Cathedral, Henry holds court with countless individuals in our community, celebrating the joy of our life and the belief of his faith. And this Friday or Saturday he takes off again on his third trip, third trip to Korea and to China—this year. He will travel, before this year is out, probably a quarter of a million miles to countries around the world. He probably knows more leaders of business and politics, of Government and of religion than any single individual in the United States of America.

It is an honor and a privilege for me to introduce him to the Senate, but it is a greater privilege to know him as a friend, a pastor, and a mentor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority. The Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN, is in control for up to 20 minutes and the Senator from Florida, Mr. NELSON, is in control of 10 minutes and the final 30 minutes under the control of the minority.

The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

SAUDI ARABIA AND COUNTERTERRORISM

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I wish to talk a bit this morning about the all-important war against terrorism and particularly the sources of funding that allow the terrorists to obtain the resources with which they conduct this war.

It is impossible to talk about funding terrorism without mentioning Saudi Arabia. With its extraordinary oil wealth, the Saudis have a tremendous economy which is home to many strains of extremist Islamist thought. Over the years, the combination of wealth and extremism has proved to be a volatile combination.

A few years ago, a telethon in Saudi Arabia raised more than \$100 million for the families of "Palestinian martyrs," a group which reportedly included suicide bombers. According to public news reports, Saudi Arabia's ruler, King Fahd, ordered the fundraising drive as a way to channel public anger in the kingdom against the United States and Israel.

Just because the Saudis are no longer holding telethons for terrorists does

not mean that they aren't providing substantial funding for terrorism in other ways.

A number of Government agencies have noted that Saudi Arabia is a source of funding for hate-filled extremist ideologies, but Saudi-based support for terrorism does not stop there. In fact, it may be a part, a small part of what we face in this war against terrorism. According to the State Department, Saudi donors and unregulated charities have been a major source of funding and support, not just for groups that preach radical ideologies but for actual terrorist organizations.

I wish to cite now some specific examples. An examination of the public record reveals clear connections with some of the world's most infamous organizations, such as al-Qaida. The staff of the 9/11 Commission, for example, noted that the intelligence community identified Saudi Arabia as the "primary source of money for al-Qaida both before and after the September 11th attacks." They went on to say "fundraisers and facilitators throughout Saudi Arabia and the Gulf raised money for al-Qaida from witting and unwitting donors and divert[ed] funds from Islamic charities and mosques."

The Iraq Study Group, to look at another effort to examine these issues, stated that "Funding for the Sunni insurgency in Iraq comes from private donors in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states," and Iraqi officials have reportedly asked the Saudi Government to do more to limit the support that these donors provide to Iraqi insurgents.

The State Department has reported that private Saudi donors are a primary source of funding for Hamas.

Early last year, Ambassador Crumpton, the State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, told a House subcommittee that the Saudi Government, "had made a bit of progress in reducing the flow of funds from Saudi Arabia to Hamas and other Palestinian rejection groups, but conceded that the money funding these terrorists is still going on."

Other governments have gone even further in their statements with respect to the funding of terrorism. In the fall of 2005, Israeli officials announced they arrested an individual, who they claimed was acting as a courier between Hamas members in the Palestinian territories and Hamas members in Saudi Arabia. No other governments have confirmed this, but if it is correct, it certainly raises a host of troubling questions. Clearly, one can see that the threat posed by these donors goes beyond the spread of religious intolerance and extremely dogmatic forms of Islam. Rather, money is flowing from Saudi Arabia to support insurgent groups in Iraq; money is flowing from Saudi Arabia to Palestinian terrorist groups such as Hamas; money is flowing from Saudi Arabia to al-Qaida.

Under Secretary of the Treasury Stewart Levey summed up this situation pretty clearly. He said:

Is money leaving Saudi Arabia to fund terrorism abroad? Yes. Undoubtedly some of that money is going to Iraq, it's going to Southeast Asia, and it's going to other places where there are terrorists. There is money leaving Saudi Arabia.

I think it is also appropriate to put this in the context of what it means to folks this Pennsylvania and Oregon and everywhere else, and in effect what happens when you pull up at a gas station in Pennsylvania and Oregon is you are paying a terror tax. A portion of what you pay for gasoline in Pennsylvania or Oregon or elsewhere, in effect, finds its way eventually to the Government of Saudi Arabia, and then we see that the Saudis end up back-dooring it to various kinds of terrorist organizations.

The Government Accountability Office describes this problem very succinctly, stating it this way:

Saudi Arabia's multibillion-dollar petroleum industry, although largely owned by the government, has fostered the creation of large private fortunes, enabling many wealthy Saudis to sponsor charities and educational foundations whose operations extend to many countries. Government and other expert reports have linked some Saudi donations to the global propagation of religious intolerance, hatred of Western values, and support to terrorist activities. So that is what we are talking about when we talk about this terror tax which literally is paid every time an American pulls up in Pennsylvania, Oregon, or anywhere else and fills their tank with gasoline.

The former Director of Central Intelligence, James Woolsey, summed it up pretty well just recently. He said:

We live in a world where Saudi Arabia earns about \$160 billion from exporting oil and a big share of that, several billion dollars, goes to the Wahabbi sect for their worldwide work, which is to set up madrassas in Pakistan and other places. And the ideology that is taught in those madrassas is for all practical purposes the same as al-Qaida's.

As the GAO report notes, this problem appears to go beyond the funding of an "al-Qaida ideology"—it appears to be funding terrorist activities.

So let me now turn for a few minutes to the question of the Saudi Government's role in all of this. When you look at all the evidence, it is pretty clear there is a serious problem, and the question is, What has the Saudi Arabian Government been doing about all of this? Are they part of the problem? Are they doing anything to address it?

Let me review the history. First, there appears to be no question that in the first couple of years after the 9/11 attacks, Saudi Arabia was directly involved in supporting terrorism. The telethon that raised money for families of suicide bombers was sponsored by the Saudi King. In many ways, the Saudis' position changed when terrorism hit home in the aftermath of the horrible terrorist bombings that